

# THOMAS RASBAND AND ELIZABETH GILES RASBAND

Thomas Rasband was the son of John Rasband and Mary Henderson, and was born December 21, 1818, at Hinkley, Northwickshire, England, and baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by James Goodwin on August 30, 1850. He married Elizabeth Giles at Lincoln, England, in the St. Mark's Church, on January 25, 1847.

Elizabeth was the daughter of William

470

## THOMAS RASBAND

In the latter part of April 1859, a man named Thomas Rasband, of Provo, was preparing his wagon and oxen for a hard trip over almost impossible trails. In the company were ten other men. They had three wagons. The trip from Provo to Heber Valley required three full days. Snow had slid from the mountains to the low places erasing all signs of a trail. In some places the wagons had to be taken apart and carried over the slides.

At night, May 1, 1859 this company arrived at the camp of Wm. Wall on Daniel Creek. As they traveled northward they came to a spring of clear, cold water. Being mainly Englishmen they named the spring and surrounding land "London."

Thomas Rasband took up land and built his cabin to which he brought his family and proceeded to be an influence in the community. His family was one of nineteen to remain in the valley that hard winter of 1859-60. On Dec. 25, 1859, he performed the first marriage in Wasatch County, when Charles C. Thomas and Emmeline Sessions (parents of Melissa T. Pearson) became man and wife.

In 1861 a ward was established and Thos. Rasband was chosen counselor to Jos. S. Murdock. After a stake was made Mr. Rasband served as bishop of the Heber East Ward. Later his son, Joseph Rasband acted as bishop of the Heber Second Ward. Heber First Ward is now presided over by Heber M. Rasband, a grandson.

The fine Rasband homes testify to the building tendency of their grandsire. The posterity of Thos. Rasband is numerous and well respected. Their gratitude and ours extends to this man who helped build a community for all to enjoy.

-2-

1st Heber East Ward Bishop

Thomas RASBAND

## HEBER BIOGRAPHIES



Giles and Sarah Huskinson. She was born April 11, 1826, at Loudham, Nottinghamshire, England. They had two children born to them in England. John was born April 15, 1848, and died June 30, 1848. Emily Rasband Hicken was born June 30, 1849.

In 1850 they came to America in the ship "North Atland," and made their home at Quincy, Illinois. William Giles Rasband was born here December 24, 1852, and a stillborn baby girl (Annie) born about 1855.

In 1856 they crossed the plains with ox team, arriving in Provo, Utah, August 25, 1856. Fredrick was born in a wagon box on September 2, 1856, before they could obtain a home in which to live. Thomas Heber was born January 15, 1859, at Provo. Then, the latter part of April, they came in a small company to Provo Valley (now Heber), arriving May 1, and as soon as possible began to put in crops.

Thomas Rasband must have been a leader of that brave little band of 19 families who spent the first winter in Heber. He performed the first marriage ceremony in the valley. The couple married was Charles C. Thomas and Emmeline Sessions. The date, December 25, 1860.

In 1861, Joseph S. Murdock was ordained a bishop by Brigham Young and sent here to organize a ward. He chose as his counselors John W. Witt and Thomas Rasband, with Henry Hamilton as clerk.

On February 22, 1862, Thomas was made justice of the peace in Precinct 1, comprising all the territory east of Provo River.

The first Relief Society was organized in 1869 and Elizabeth Rasband was one of the first members. When the ward was divided, in 1877, making the East and West Wards, she and Margaret Todd were made counselors to Margaret Muir and Thomas Rasband was ordained bishop of East Ward.

471

His first counselor was John Muir and Harmon Cummings was second counselor. He held this office until his death, on July 24, 1884.

He and his wife passed through all the trials of the early pioneers of Utah and the settling of this valley. Four sons and a daughter were born to them after their arrival in Heber. They were: George Wesley, James, Mary Elizabeth, Joseph A. and Charles.

Thomas, with others from the valley, answered a call to help defend the people from Johnston's army. They left home on October 9, 1857. He also fought in the Blackhawk and Indian wars.

Two sons have filled the position of bishop, namely, Joseph A., of Heber Second Ward, and Fredrick, of Park City Ward. Thomas was struck by his team of horses and pushed against the granary in June. He seemed to improve for a time, then infection set in and he died July 4, 1884. He was so well respected that the celebration and dance were canceled.

Elizabeth then lived with her children after her husband's death, and while visiting her son in Park City, Utah, she contracted pneumonia and died on October 15, 1900. Her services were held in Heber, conjointly with those of Mrs. Catherine McKnight.



gathered in their wagons or buggies, on horseback or on foot to participate in the "baptizing day."

Authorities of the stake realized the need for a baptismal font where the ordinance could regularly be performed, and so the facilities were constructed in the tithing office where services were held monthly.

A devastating fire on the grounds and out-buildings surrounding the tithing office broke out during a peaceful night in the fall of 1903, and before the bucket brigade could bring sufficient water to the scene the hay, barns and sheds were destroyed. The brigade saved the tithing office itself, however. This fire virtually brought an end to the payment of tithing "in kind." Farmers were urged to sell their produce and pay their tithes in cash. More adequate baptismal facilities were constructed in the new high school seminary building about this time, also, and the usefulness of the tithing office began to wane. The building was sold to Labon Hylton who converted it into two apartments, and then sold the property to Lowe Ashton who constructed a modern service station on the site.



BISHOP THOMAS RASBAND  
first bishop of Heber East Ward.

When Bishop Thomas Rasband of Heber East Ward died Robert S. Duke was called as the new bishop. His counselors were Orson Hicken and Henry Ohlweiler. Bishop Duke served until 1901 when he was ordained a Patriarch of the Wasatch Stake. However, the ward didn't lose Bishop Duke, for his son, Robert Duke became the new bishop, with Orson Hicken and George Wootton as counselors.

In the West Ward, Bishop Forman served until 1885 when he was succeeded by Bishop Henry Clegg. Thomas Hicken Jr. was sustained as the third bishop of the ward in 1894 and served until 1902 when he moved with his family to Raymond, Alberta, Canada. At the time he moved, plans were underway by the stake presidency to dissolve the two Heber Wards and create three new wards, so no new bishop was sustained.

Those who served in leadership capacities in the East and West Wards before the reorganization were as follows: